

FACT SHEET



Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant Iowa City, Iowa

April 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the MidAmerican Energy Company, and the Iowa-Illinois Manor Partnership reached an agreement in March 1999 that requires additional investigation of the contamination at the Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site. The site is located at 505 Burlington Street in Iowa City, Iowa.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

Under the terms of the agreement, also known as an Administrative Order on Consent or AOC, MidAmerican Energy Company will investigate the nature and extent of coal tar contamination at the site, which resulted from the operation of a former manufactured gas plant. MidAmerican Energy will also determine the risks to human health and the environment resulting from the coal tar contamination.

NEXT STEPS

MidAmerican Energy Company will prepare a Work Plan that describes the work they will perform at the site and submit it to EPA for review in June. Once the Work Plan is approved by EPA, MidAmerican Energy will conduct field investigation activities at the site to determine the nature and extent of the coal tar contamination. This field work is expected to occur in late summer and will include collecting soil samples, installing and sampling ground water monitoring wells, and collecting sediment and surface water samples from Ralston Creek. The samples will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. This data will be used to determine the risks that the site poses to human health and the environment. EPA can then determine what additional actions may be appropriate for this site.

EPA is planning to hold a meeting in Iowa City prior to the start of the field work so that interested citizens may learn more about what will be taking place at the site.

BACKGROUND

From 1910 to 1939, gas was manufactured at a plant located on the southeast corner of Burlington and Van Buren Streets. Iowa City Light and Power Company operated the plant. In the 1940's,

Iowa City Light and Power Company became the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company (now known as MidAmerican Energy Company), which maintained service facilities on the property until about 1971. In 1983, the Iowa-Illinois Manor apartment complex was built on the site.

When the gas was produced, by-products such as coal tar were also produced. Some compounds found in coal tar are hazardous substances that can cause health and environmental problems if handled improperly. EPA conducted sampling of soil, groundwater, air, and sediment and water from Ralston Creek over the past few years. Coal tar contaminants related to former manufactured gas plant operations, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene and toluene; metals, including lead, cyanide and arsenic; and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been identified in some samples taken both on and off site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Site related documents, including the Administrative Order on Consent and reports containing the results of previous investigations, are available for review at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 South Linn, Iowa City, Iowa. The documents are referred to as the Administrative Record File for the Iowa City FMGP site.

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003 or toll free at 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: huffman.diane@epa.gov

###